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DF 187 E

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COMMENTS BY FEINER ON THE AUSTRIAN CRYPTOLOGIC BUREAU AND FORMER  
GERMAN COLLEAGUES

1. During his period of detention (September-December 1946) at the Hq 7707 European Command Intelligence Center, Obamursel, Germany, Wilhelm FEINER, former Ministerialrat and chief of cryptanalysis in the Armed Forces High Command Cryptologic Agency (OKW/Chi), wrote a lengthy report concerning his past career and his extensive experiences in the field of cryptology. This report was never issued in translation although an inadequate summary by Army Security Agency was issued as TICOM/I-206.

2. It is presently planned to issue a complete translation of the entire report in the DF series (DF-187). The attached translation is the sixth of the series and contains FEINER's comments on the Austrian Cryptologic Bureau and on certain former German colleagues. Pertinent notes from the TICOM files have been added for the convenience of the reader, although no attempt has been made to include all references to all the persons mentioned.

3. Previous TICOM reports of this series are:

- DF 187      The Career of Wilhelm FEINER with Special  
              Regard to his Activity in the Field of  
              Cryptography and Cryptanalysis
- DF 187-A    Organization of the Cryptologic Agency of  
              the Armed Forces High Command, with Names,  
              Activities, and Number of Employees Together  
              with a Description of the Devices Used
- DF 187-B    The Cryptanalytic Successes of OKW/Chi after 1938
- DF 187-C    Relations of OKW/Chi with Other German  
              Cryptologic Bureaus
- DF 187-D    Relations of OKW/Chi with Foreign  
              Cryptologic Bureaus

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THE AMERICAN FOREIGN SERVICE CIPHER BUREAU

## A. Members Whom I Recall

KLOB: Ministerialrat Hofrat Dr. KLOB was until his death (1936?)<sup>1</sup> Director of the Cryptanalytic Unit at the "Ballhausplatz", i. e., in the Foreign Office in Vienna. KLOB was the man who made the contacts with Chi. He had great experience in all fields of practical cryptanalysis, but was no longer able to occupy himself with complicated reencipherments. Supposedly his attitude was "Pan-German:" ("grossdeutsch"). He had his two children brought up as Protestants, a thing which in Austria required much personal courage. He was tall and slender, very near-sighted, and so homely that he reminded one of Socrates. But his eye was shrewd and his whole facial expression showed spirit. He was very musical, composed, and gave violin concerts.

SEIFERT: Sektionsrat Hofrat Dr. Joseph Leo SEIFERT was his successor. He was director of the cryptanalytic unit when the annexation of Austria occurred. I described his outward appearance in an interrogation.<sup>2</sup> His

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1. TICOM Report "Collected Information on the Austrian Foreign Office Cipher Bureau", dated 26 November 1947 gives KLOB's Christian name, Otto, and the date of his death 23.10.1935.

2. This is not recorded in the oral interrogation of FENNER (TICOM/I-200). A full description of SEIFERT's spiritual character is given by FENNER in a later portion of his written work. It is added here for the convenience of the reader.

"Dr. Joseph L. SEIFERT. One of the most striking personalities in the Austrian and German cryptanalytic services. Philologist. Later Press Archivist, the Ballhausplatz, then transferred to the cryptanalytic unit when a position became open. Quickly made himself thoroughly acquainted with the work and very soon won the unconditional respect of the men in the Cryptologic Bureau of the German Ministry of Defense by his substantial interpretation and his receptivity. He became a cryptanalyst with a liking and passion for the work. Pronouncedly Roman Catholic himself and convinced of the sanctity of the commandments of Christian morals, he worked on the cryptographic systems of the Roman Curia in the same routine fashion as on those of the Quirinal. In opposition to the right to assure secrecy by encryption stands the same right to remove this assurance by decryptment, for it is not necessary to conceal that which is good -- but it is an art. He decrypted Papal cryptograms and went regularly to confession. As a clever man he kept the whole store of his experience in working on the cryptographic systems of different countries in excellent order and his advice was therefore gladly sought. In working on codes he had a great deal of imagination but knew how to keep his imagination in

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employment was also suggested. There is no doubt that most of the languages he worked on Italy, Yugoslavia, Poland, Hungary, the Vatican, and France. STERNER learned to deal with complicated encipherments only after he came to work with Chi.

FILE:<sup>3</sup> General G. B. Magliaruzzi Nofari Indice FIGL. Worked on analysis of Italian traffic and was the author of the book Systeme des Chiffrierens (Systems of Encipherment), published by Blanch POPE in Paris, the counterpart of which Systeme des Dechiffrierens (Systems of Decipherment) was not reported in print because Chi raised objections. FIGL was always in financial difficulty and it was known, for instance, that he sometimes supplied the Hungarians with encipherments and code groups for money. His accomplishments as cryptanalyst were mediocre although he thought himself a genius.

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## Footnote 2 - Continued

2. Chiefly, few things were so painful to him as the ill-founded interpretation of a code group. Although it was less to his liking to devote himself independently to complicated encipherments, he nevertheless had enough understanding and sense to be able to repeat independently that with which he had once become acquainted and to continue work along on the same problem with assurance. Well grounded in the history of politics and art, deeply rooted in the fundamentals of the Roman Catholic Church, but with a mind which was not closed to modern questions of economic life and great military questions, STERNER had at his command a knowledge and an adventurous spirit which made him especially valuable as an associate in the world of cryptanalysis. Thus he combined his excellent general training with unquestionably productive power so that he was able to show constant achievement in the field of practical cryptanalysis. He, who never needed to be urged on, because the minimum fulfillment of duty was to him a matter of course, understood admirably how to encourage and urge on other people to do consistent work. STERNER was loyal and reliable. His practical nature did not feel at home amid the chatter of little people; personal success for him was solely the concomitant of professional success. He did not give of himself freely and therefore may have appeared taciturn to unimportant people, but whenever he did reveal himself to one who was his equal in mentality and character he gave himself fully and without reserve. Definitely a scholar by nature he had no use for red tape. Consequently he was better suited for the spiritual leadership of men who had already matured and whose character had become fixed. In this connection he probably could not pass on to his fellow workers his special gift as analyst, but he was always ready to make available to his colleagues his methods of work, the rules which had proven effective and the fruits of his experience in doing this at any time for the common good. His plans and whatever STERNER undertook was successful. In the choice of his associates he made great demands, but his knowledge of human nature also enabled him to select his helpers correctly".
3. A comprehensive report on FIGL will be issued shortly within the DF series.

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VON EPPERJESSY: Baron von EPPERJESSY was a Hungarian by descent. What he worked on I no longer recall; I believe French plain codes. He was nervous and weak. His unhappy marriage with the woman he loved took from him the last remains of a manly bearing. He also was in contact with the Hungarian cryptanalytic unit.

WEINGART: Regierungsrat WEINGART was an extremely experienced analyst of Italian traffic with an excellent knowledge of the diplomatic language and of Italian politics. He was highly regarded and renowned in our work. In spite of physical infirmity he was a man of the world. Tall and making a miserable impression, degenerate -- in contrast to the trimness of FIGL who lived moderately and spared his strength.

BALLOVIC: Hauptmann a.D. Rudolf BALLOVIC, from the suite of his Apostolic Majesty the Emperor Franz Joseph, Regierungsrat. Tall and broad-shouldered, always well dressed. Dyed his hair black which he parted meticulously in order to preserve the impression of eternal youth. He worked chiefly on Yugoslavia, but also on Bulgaria. In his work he was accurate and dependable. He had a rich fund of experience and accomplished a great deal.

MAULER: Angestellter (Employee) MAULER was of Czech descent. Probably worked on Italian traffic. I never saw him in Vienna.

BOHUSLAV: Minor employee, supposedly statistician. I never saw him in Vienna.

BRAUNIAS: Sektionsrat (?) BRAUNIAS worked on Roumania, was of Roumanian origin. Strangely enough he enjoyed SEIFERT's confidence, which he later betrayed in despicable fashion. Ambitious and not at all able. Medium height, dark hair, a pinched face, unpleasantly amiable, sanctimonious.

## B. Internal Organization

Nothing was ever said about the internal organization of the Austrian cryptanalytic unit. In spite of the excellent relations which existed even when the policies of the two countries were at odds, no questions were ever asked regarding the internal structure of the organization. They worked with one another and one could always tell by the code groups turned over how

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But the other party was not at all -- and this time took no interest in the structure of the friendly occupation. This was in part a question of personal taste. In another place I have already mentioned the fact that the Austrian cryptanalytic unit enjoyed an excellent reputation -- and not without reason.<sup>4</sup> However was done there could always be taken over without question, aside from the results of FUEL and BURNING.

## 3. Aspirations at Time of Anschluss

On the day of the annexation of Austria, General FELLNER sent me by plane to Vienna with a two-fold assignment:

1. To look out for the personal safety of every gentleman in the Austrian cryptanalytic unit.

2. To prevent the Heimwehr (HW) or the Hitlerbewachung (SD) from playing any mischief with the cryptanalytic material belonging to the unit.

Initially only the Aogarten airfield was occupied and there was not a man from the HW or the SD in the city itself, so that I had several hours in which to talk over the most important matters with GEMNER and to measure his general attitude. I took over some documents from their current work, everything else which was no longer important had been burned. Of course, not the rich historical archives -- the Austrian cryptanalytic unit began in the days of Maria Theresa (1757-1780):

I later became convinced that my personal protection of the members of the Austrian cryptanalytic unit was not necessary, because the city remained calm. But in the evening people from the HW and SD arrived. I immediately got word that these people were creating an undesired activity in the archives. They began to carry out material in order to fly it to Berlin. Unfortunately I could not find a single German gentleman, but was able to contact the Austrian Colonel (?) Dr. HENNING, who was no longer in a position to help us but must have found fault with my actions, because on the following

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4. See FELLNER's remarks in DF 187 "Vienna in particular with its great experience and traditional ability greatly furthered my work".

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day the Chief of Counterintelligence (Abwehr), Admiral CANARIS, reproached me for my indiscreet attitude. At the same time the "housecleaning" began, that is to say, unwelcome elements were arrested. Now almost all the members of the Austrian cryptanalytic unit were members of the Fatherland Front of Baron von SCHUSCHNIGG, and hence definitely not National Socialists -- with a single exception: BRAUNIAS. Therefore I considered it safest to take these gentlemen over into our service and sent a telegram to that effect to FELLGIEBEL.

According to SEIFERT the only men to be considered for transfer were: himself, WEINGART, BRAUNIAS, BALLOVIC, MAULER, and BOHUSLAV. FIGL had already retired months ago and was therefore not active in the section. Before the basic financial aspects of the matter were settled in Berlin some few days passed. Then I got word that SEIFERT, BALLOVIC, WEINGART, and MAULER were to be taken over by Chi, while there was uncertainty regarding the others. BRAUNIAS himself had meanwhile reached another decision. He was the author of a pamphlet in which he had tried to prove the unconstitutionality of the SCHUSCHNIGG regime and therefore assumed that this document would open for him in Berlin the way to a Professorship of Public Law. Therefore BRAUNIAS declined the invitation of Chi and remained in Vienna -- without receiving a call as professor.

Meanwhile the FA and the Foreign Office (AA) had also got in their own. Both wished to take over part of the personnel of the Austrian cryptanalytic unit without my being able to find out in Vienna how this question had really been decided. My orders ran out in a few days. I also had nothing more to do in Vienna. I flew back to Berlin and there arranged for the transfer of the gentlemen to Berlin after they had been requested to break up their households.

After a few days SEIFERT, BALLOVIC, WEINGART, and MAULER were fetched by plane. But at the Tempelhof airfield there was a surprise. SEIFERT and MAULER came to Chi, to be sure, and WEINGART went to the Foreign Office as had been agreed, but BALLOVIC was approached by a representative of the FA who pressed a considerable sum of money into his hand and revealed



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simultaneously that he would be taken over by the FA. All my protests to FELDMARSHAL availed nothing, and I do not know to this day what agreement had been made which entailed this surrender.

## D. Former Austrian Cryptanalysts in German Service

Corresponding to their service ranks, SEIFERT was taken on as Ober-regierungsrat (Superior Government Councillor), MAHLER as Angestellter (Employee); WEINMANN, as Regierungsrat (the rank of a middle-grade official in Austria), came to the Foreign Office as middle-grade official (mittlerer Beamter), and the retired Hauptmann (Captain) BALLOVIC, who had been only a middle-grade official in Austria, was taken over by the FA as Oberinspektor (Chief Inspector) and middle-grade official, although none of the top people of the FA had ever attended a university for a single semester. Thus precisely the thing which had once caused great difficulty at Chi in connection with the requested transfer of the leading figures of the FA, now, when these same men had become big shots in the FA, proved to be an insuperable difficulty. The Foreign Office also took over the Angestellter BOHUSLAV, but I do not know what he did. Supposedly he held a position of confidence with the Chief of the Cryptologic Bureau of the Foreign Office, but it was only as an air raid warden that he came into contact with those of my men who were detailed to the Foreign Office. He is supposed to have found his way into the Party, but whether that is true I do not know.

Some time later BRACHIAS appeared temporarily in the Foreign Office. I heard, however, nothing of his cryptanalytic successes; instead he played an especially despicable role in the attempt which now began to throw suspicion on his former Austrian comrades. He was an expert at the evaluation of the anti-National Socialist feeling of the former Austrian gentlemen. If a document with its accusations and derogatory assertions was incriminating and if under the person involved "ripe for the Gestapo", then Dr. BRACHIAS wrote the final word. Thus HITLER demanded the immediate dismissal of SEIFERT and later the dismissal of MAHLER. They worked against BALLOVIC in the FA in similar fashion: either he did not have a "picture of the Fuehrer" in his workroom or he did not take a sufficiently active part in

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Party life, -- somehow or other he became offensive. FELLGIEBEL personally straightened out the SEIFERT case; he wrote in my presence a letter to someone close to HIMMLER and took the point of view that SEIFERT's religious attitude and Austrian patriotism were a guarantee that SEIFERT would remain loyal and honest as a German official. FELLGIEBEL accomplished his aim by this letter and SEIFERT was not bothered any more.

MAULER was also criticized because of his religious attitude. General JUPPE straightened this case out. Later on BRAUNIAS was dropped by his own employers because his wife was said not to be Aryan. Once when I reproached him in my office with the baseness of his attitude he broke down and wept and claimed that he had done this only to save his own life.

WEINGART died either shortly before the outbreak of the war or shortly after it began.

SEIFERT worked with great diligence and with success in practical cryptanalysis. His chronic illness (enormously high blood pressure and hemorrhoids) did not permit him to devote his entire energy to the cause. Early in 1945 he had to submit to another serious operation and supposedly went to some hospital in the west without my ever having heard from him.

BALLOVIC fought for years at the EA to get a transfer to Chi. In 1940, as I recall it, he succeeded in getting transferred to the cryptanalytic unit of OKH. There, after a while, he became Regierungsrat and Oberregierungsrat and thus an official of the higher ranks. Late in 1944 he was transferred to me along with the VAUCK unit and worked on agent systems. I should have been glad to transfer him to the Yugoslav or Bulgarian cryptanalytic work, but that did not happen because I had to leave Berlin and Halle. BALLOVIC suffered seriously from rheumatism and neuralgia. I saw him for the last time late in May 1945 in Hohenwerfen. He wished to apply for admission to a military hospital and to go back to Vienna after recovering his health, since his family was there. I have never heard anything further from BALLOVIC.

MAULER worked on Italian systems with very praiseworthy circumspection and much skill. He was one of my most gifted cryptanalysts. Clever and well educated, industrious and critical, gifted with a high degree of restrained

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imagination. He was able to get his degree as Doctor of Philosophy and then on the basis of his other good qualities was placed on the list of especially capable candidates (to be higher officials). Late in 1944 he came down with a bronchial trouble, received permission to recuperate in Czechoslovakia, but never returned. MAULNER was short and stocky. He had blonde hair, clear light complexion. His bright grey-blue eyes did not require glasses.

BOHUSLAV I did not see. What became of him I do not know.

## E. Remarks on FIGL

Andreas FIGL was born about seventy-five years ago in a small city in southeastern Austria. He had his first schooling in a Jewish school because there was no German school in the city. FIGL became an officer but later resigned and became a wood dealer. At the outbreak of World War I he was restored to active duty because the Austrian General Staff attached considerable importance to the cooperation of FIGL who was a linguist (FIGL was employed in the Eridanzdienst (Intelligence Service). FIGL worked in the cryptanalytic section and supposedly made a good name for himself there. When the cryptanalytic unit of the Dollhausplatz began working with the Cryptologic Bureau of the German Ministry of Defense, FIGL was the one working on Italian diplomatic systems. As such he was an Austrian Oberrat (retired) and Regierungsrat, i. e., according to the Austrian official set-up a medium-grade official. His "Hofrat", on the other hand, signifies an honorary title which deserving officials could receive even under the Austrian Republic.

FIGL's cryptanalytic achievements I do not esteem highly, because his original interpretations of groups were often false. He himself took the point of view that it is necessary to proceed from the improbable to the probable. His Chief, Ministerialrat Hofrat Dr. HLOB, shared my viewpoint. FIGL was ambitious, and as a poor man -- he had lost his property in consequence of the "Anschluss" -- he needed money. Since he thought he was an authority, he wrote around 1927 the book Systeme des Chiffrierens which was published by Ulrich MOSER in Graz. This book brings an industrious enumeration of the universally known basic systems along with examples and brief criticisms. His attempt, however, at systematization is poor because FIGL

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allows himself to be guided primarily by external characteristics. His penetration of the subject is so slight that he terms a simple reencipherment of a 2-digit substitution by itself (i. e., cipher text -- function of the intermediate text) incapable of solution. The Swedish cryptologist STALHAN pointed out this error a few years later. Nevertheless the book Systeme des Chiffrierens is bought eagerly and even goes abroad. It attracts attention because FIGL also describes a system much used by the English in World War I. Serious cryptologists, however, cannot accept the book as epochal. KLOB had forbidden FIGL to publish the book. FIGL took advantage, however, of a time when his chief was away and published the manuscript because he estimated correctly that the Ballhausplatz would hesitate to take disciplinary action against him or to press a suit. It was also assumed that FIGL's information would not have any influence on the cryptologic bureaus of the Great Powers but it did lead to a revision of traditional views in foreign armies and to that extent FIGL can boast that he did contribute directly to an improvement in the cryptosystems of the foreign armed services.

The second part of the work, Systeme des Dechiffrierens, has not appeared. The publisher, Ulrich MOSER in Graz, was indemnified to the extent of a few thousand schilling by the Ballhausplatz for the profit foregone, and FIGL had to promise to hand over the manuscript to KLOB. This was done and in this way I also got to see the manuscript. The content had been compiled even more industriously than in the case of Part I, but was also more confused and devoid of any comprehension of modern cryptanalysis. No intellectual gain could be drawn from the manuscript. The methods of solution which he proposed were slow in form and in content proceeded again from the improbable to the probable. Thus, for example, FIGL assumed in the case of a 5-digit cryptotext as a matter of principle that the basic system consisted of 5-place elements. His ideas were of no use to Chi and could not furnish any positive inspiration in a course of instruction. FIGL was able to get a second manuscript to Rome! There they knew about it and were acquainted with it. When, after the annexation of Austria, the cryptobureau of the Army was working with a former Austrian officer, Hauptmann MANG, as chief of cryptanalysis, FIGL's

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check was in this role which thought very highly of him. FEHL at that time became the center man of National Socialist officers at whose head stood HANN and the later Major WERNE.

Occasionally FEHL also sold the reorganizations of solved systems to the Honvedministerium. The Hungarian chief of counterintelligence showed me proof on the occasion of a visit to Budapest. Consequently at Chi FEHL was considered an agent who established his connections by trading stamps. Consequently he was treated with caution. Even before the Anschluss FEHL retired but then after the Anschluss he reappeared in Berlin, but without paying a visit to Chi, which was risky anyway. Supposedly he found employment with the Criminal Police. Some years later, however, after 20 July 1944, when the Abwehr was headed by SCHMIDTBERG, I chanced to receive from the SD some foreign encrypted messages, the origin of which was not made known. And then I recognized FEHL's characteristic mark on individual telegrams. My question whether FEHL was in seen there was not answered.

FEHL is small of stature. Around 1935 he had gray hair, combed straight back, with no bald spot. He had a mustache and pointed beard. He was always trying to give a significant expression to his big gray eyes. Even though that may have been natural it usually gave the impression of being intentional. He was stocky, his movements deliberate. I always had the feeling that the man was trying to appear important. His speech was likewise deliberate, with calculated effect. Whether FEHL is still alive and, if so, where he is, is not known to me.

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## II. REMARKS ON FORMER GERMAN COLLEAGUES

### A. Oberleutnant Dr. ADLER<sup>1</sup>

No fighter, but a quiet dependable worker with an unmistakable leaning toward scholarly work. ADLER thoroughly mastered the linguistic difficulties of Japanese and Chinese; in the cryptologic field he still lacks the requisite knowledge because he has not yet had opportunity to acquire it. In spite of this difficulty ADLER repeatedly had success. He kept his fellow workers under strict control without making excessive demands. In other respects he was a good-natured, decent fellow, with a clean mind and thoroughly nature character. He had healthy ambition, but he never let that take his eye from the work itself. His personal modesty and unpretentiousness were genuine and in no wise artificial. With his excellent knowledge of languages and his substantial character ADLER would surely have become a first class cryptanalyst after deepening his cryptologic knowledge.

### B. Beordeter Beaster Edgar BERNDT<sup>2</sup>

Senior teacher in a commercial school. One of the most capable and energetic cryptanalysts in my unit. An open mind, a frank glance, a sense of reality with a fair shot of idealism. BERNDT had an excellent gift of comprehension and after a few hours of instruction displayed particular aptitude as cryptologist. In spite of his ability to carry through wearisome analytic studies, he was himself an outspoken adherent of empirical analysis. This was justified by his imagination, however, his splendid mechanical memory, and his firm mastery of the material he worked on. Demanding the most of himself, BERNDT made no lesser demands on his fellow workers. He was

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1. ADLER is mentioned in TICOM documents (TICOM/I-90, 94, 96 as head of Section 13 of OKW/Chi (Chinese and Japanese cryptographic systems). At the end of the war ADLER led a group from OKW/Chi which was evacuated to the Army Signal School at Heilbronn. In 1947 Franz WEISSER, another member of OKW/Chi, was an interpreter in Munich (TICOM/I-201) and this address was confirmed by WENDLAND (TICOM/I-202).
  2. Referred to in DETTMANN's personality list (DF 185 Part I).

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considered hard and yet in reality he was merely a man passionately interested in what he was doing. He would work far into the night and the only way he would make up for it was by a good meal. His own temperament liked to play tricks on his good judgment: his love of the truth and his instinct to be honest caused BERNDT to express his opinion in places and to persons where it was not appropriate and where his opinion did not carry weight. So BERNDT's character had not yet matured fully, which was not strange in view of his years. For the same reason it could happen that BERNDT expressed an unjust judgment, but he was always the first to perceive the injustice. From the Bund's youth movement BERNDT had joined the Party. The disillusionment which he experienced there he probably registered with good sense, but the way out of the NSDAP was closed to him. I esteemed BERNDT especially for his frankness and his competence; I might have broken him of certain bad habits in the course of time by suitable training. In any event BERNDT stood first on the list of candidates for a job as one of the higher officials of the cryptanalytic section.

## C. Regierungsrat Dr. Dr. DENCKER

One of the shrewdest of my collaborators who knew how to divide up his time and his working strength admirably.<sup>3</sup> DENCKER went through periods of heavy overloading without showing signs of nervousness or decreasing the measure of his willingness to oblige. This power of conscious self-control permitted Dr. DENCKER on the other hand to be quite sensitive. Yet one never needed to fear in his case that he would become a victim of his own individual weakness. DENCKER worked industriously, precisely, his interpretations of code groups were sure, everyone could rely on his judgment. He devoted himself to each task with scientific thoroughness without getting off into

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3. The comments of Dr. Franz WEISSER of OKW/Chi are somewhat at variance with FENNER's estimate: "DENCKER cannot be relied upon for accuracy because he never worked on any code and did not bother about organization. He was a linguist and nothing more. He is a tragic figure because although he belonged to the Nazi Party, he was not a Nazi in feeling. He was a typical "intellectual" man". (TICOM/I-201).

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boundless space. He was harsh with himself, but was rather mild in dealing with others. This conduct did not spring from any inward cowardice but from a nobility of spirit which did not allow him to assign others a task which they did not themselves recognize as necessary. DEMONER's thinking was unusually sound and his character kept him from being unfaithful to his thinking. He was extremely useful in a group of high class people.

## D. Professor Dr. FRANZ<sup>4</sup>

Detailed official (Recorder's Report) a man with a rare wealth of mental and spiritual gifts: excellent mathematician and no less excellent as a musician! Amiable without being calculating, avoiding all rudeness, of an orderly spirit and decent character himself, he is better suited for responsible cooperation than for leadership. Highly esteemed as an analyst because of his ability to recognize quickly and accurately the essence of a problem. Avoids needless investigations and goes straight to the point. Never falls into the error of making an analysis merely for the sake of the analysis! Because of his sensitiveness he can only be used successfully in a group of highly trained collaborators but there he works admirably and is characterized by great ability, purposeful industry and sober judgment. He was the Deputy of the chief analyst, Dr. MUSCHMANN.

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4. Dr. Wolfgang FRANZ of OCM/Chi, who in 1946 gave a detailed report to TICOM (issued as DF 176). At that time Dr. FRANZ was teaching at the Goethe University, Frankfurt and was living at Schumannstrasse 58, Frankfurt. A full summary of his life and career is contained in DF 176, of which the more important details are: Born 4 Oct 1905 in Hamburg, Germany the son of Director Professor Doctor Erich FRANZ. Married 11 March 1939 to Dr. Katharina FRANZ, nee KOHN. No children as of 1946. Dr. Rer. Nat. at University of Halle with thesis on Theory of Irreducibility. Teacher at Marburg University; taken to OCM/Chi in 1945 and became professor of mathematics at Goethe University, Frankfurt.



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## E. Sonderfuehrer Dr. FRICKE<sup>5</sup>

I am too little acquainted with him personally to be able to give any estimate. I do not believe, however, that he is one of those people who will defend their convictions doggedly. When he was transferred from Chi OKH to Chi OKW I received him with all due mistrust. He noticed that and thereupon emphasized the loyalty of his attitude. People who are so small of stature sometimes, however, have inhibitions where a man of normal size would never dream of any spiritual opposition. I must repeat what others have told me: FRICKE has a decent character, is a good analyst, takes his work seriously and has the gift of being able to recognize precisely the weaknesses of our own systems. He has a tractable spirit, plenty of working energy, and is a loyal honest collaborator.

## F. Generalleutnant GIMMER

Generalleutnant GIMMER came from the Signal Corps and was a Royal Prussian Officer. Judging by his speech he was a Silesian. In the Armed Forces he held, among others, positions in the Seventh Division in Munich and the First Division in Koenigsberg. Then he was transferred to the Ordnance Division, Signal Branch (Wa Pruef 7). Whether he rendered distinguished service as Chief of this section I do not know. It is certain that he was concerned with the development of modern communications equipment because GIMMER was very industrious. His activity, and also his unprepared mental attitude, of which he probably was not conscious himself, found expression in frequent long speeches. He was stout, nearsighted, and had a rosy

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5. Dr. FRICKE was interrogated at length by TICOM and was taken with Dr. HUBERTSMANN to England for further exploitation. TICOM/I-5, 20, 47, 48, 50, 77, 78, 79, 84, 120, 136, 161, 200 give details of the work which Dr. FRICKE and Dr. HUBERTSMANN did in OKW/Chi. In TICOM/I-20 Dr. FRICKE stated that he had been an astronomer at the Hamburg observatory. In 1934 he had studied astronomy, mathematics, and physics in Berlin, and in 1935 had published his first astronomical works, which were critiques of studies made at the Mt. Wilson observatories by WILSON and HERTZSPUNGER on the distribution of spiral nebulae. Later he studied under Professor MILNE in England. In 1939 he took his doctorate at the Goettingen observatory on the dynamics of stellar systems. Later he obtained a position at the Hamburg observatory but was forced to leave this for OKW/Chi in 1940.

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complexion. Of medium height. He became Chief of the Armed Forces Communications Group (Chef der Amtgruppe Wehrmachtnachrichtenverbindungen OKW) because of favorable circumstances: when FELLGIEBEL and THIELE were arrested and executed in connection with the attempt on HITLER's life, the choice fell upon GIMMLER because he was the next ranking officer. He had served on the West Front in several high tactical positions and plunged into the work with characteristic industry. Conferences were frequent and lasted for hours. That was so burdensome to Chi that the staff officers and officials of corresponding rank used to take turns so as not to have to attend these lectures too frequently. GIMMLER did not know how to gain perspective in his new position as his first step but instead he began to organize. He ordered the reorganization of the Cryptologic Agency, which I have described elsewhere, in which connection vital factors were sacrificed to personal considerations. Although many of his ideas were good, though by no means new, the time was ill chosen because late in 1944 there was no reasonable prospect that a new organization would ever be able to bear fruit. This false move can be explained solely on the basis of GIMMLER's readiness to lend his ear and his voice to an absolutely untruthful propaganda. Carefully avoiding every conflict which might have endangered him or his official position, he had neither the comprehension nor the sense to comprehend correctly the military developments of the coming weeks and to adopt suitable measures. He liked to think of himself in the role of an "Iron Man" and did not even use those opportunities to speak the truth when he might have done so without damage. As late as Green Thursday in the year 1945 he was thundering against the "Intelligentsia" and trying to raise the spirits of his subordinates by citing insignificant numbers of rifles which had been produced and of turbo-airplanes ready to take off, only to lose the last bit of respect for himself in the eyes of wiser people. In spite of all that he was good natured and friendly in a small circle. Good natured as a man but vain and self-assertive.

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officer, he embodied a double character which was at the same time stupid and industrious.<sup>6</sup>

## G. Dr. Erich HUEPPELHAIN<sup>7</sup>

Dr. HUEPPELHAIN attracted my attention about the middle of the thirties when as computing astronomer of the University observatory at Muenster in Westphalia he offered Chi some suggestions for cryptographic systems which were unusable without exception but did represent an exceptional case; inasmuch as HUEPPELHAIN had attempted to give an exact critical estimate of them. When about a year later I needed additional personnel I summoned HUEPPELHAIN and he became an employe (Angestellter) at Chi. I used him first in the French section but soon noticed that his abilities were less fully utilized on the linguistic side than in small analytic studies and in the formation of exact concepts. The professional language of the cryptologists has never been completed. Phenomena are always cropping up which require an unambiguous term. But these terms also undergo many a change before their definition is proof against all attacks. How not everybody is inclined to be

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6. GEBLER's opinion is substantiated by comments from other of GEBLER's associates or subordinates. Cf. that of Otto EUGGISCHE, cryptanalyst with OKW/Chi in TICON/I-92: "Security Conferences with General GEBLER. These took place over a period of three months from November 1944 through January 1945. GEBLER insisted on them, though HUEPPELHAIN felt it was a waste of time simply to gather formally to hear reports." Cf. also WENIGER, TICON/I-201: "Lt. Gen. GEBLER knew nothing about anything. I remember that he once said that he had obtained his post as head of WIV because he knew how to obey. This was typical of the man. He made himself ridiculous with Nazi speeches, particularly at Halle in the last days of the war when he stated that OKW/Chi was the "intellectual clique" and was composed of "defeatists" and that it was the fault of these men that the war had not been won earlier. He was convinced that Germany would win the war, even in the very last phases. He also stated "as long as we live, we shall stay in Berlin." Next day we began to move. He was kind-natured but stupid; an upholder of authority, stout, and his expression was without intelligence. He had short hair, a la HINDENBURG. He maintained an important air to cover his lack of understanding. He was a confirmed Nazi and worse than any Gauleiter."
7. HUEPPELHAIN was interrogated extensively by TICON and was taken to England with Dr. FRICKE. See above note 6 for joint interrogations of HUEPPELHAIN and FRICKE. For a summary of TICON information on HUEPPELHAIN's career see DF 185, Part I.

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as exact in his language as he may be in his thinking, and I had few associates who took delight in a search for the correct words, to say nothing of comprehending the fact that the language of the cryptologist must be just as precise as a mathematical definition. So this became a field in which HUSTENHAIN's collaboration and criticisms, as well as his understanding for clear intelligible terms, was valuable to me. Nor was his spirit satisfied with working on this or that problem; rather it was the whole that fascinated him. He gave critical attention to every question; he tried to get to the bottom of everything. Thus I was soon able to entrust him with relieving me in the courses and to turn over to him full responsibility for difficult problems: the checking of cryptographic systems of all kinds, the picking out of the so-called device constants in machines or small cryptographic aids. With increasing experience his horizon broadened and I was able to turn over to him any analysis which exceeded my powers, in full confidence that he would handle everything in the best possible fashion and would leave nothing out of account. I do not by any means wish to deny that there may be first class analysts who have not had university training, but if a man has a special gift and has in addition the appropriate preliminary training, then working with such people is especially agreeable. It is not necessary to say much, a few hints suffice and you are understood. If, in addition, you discover that such a man's criticism is always factual, he soon becomes an associate without whom you can no longer do. And that was the characteristic thing about our relations with one another: respect for the other's ability, absolute confidence in all official matters, and a conviction of perfect comradeship which will not even hesitate to tell the truth when it hurts.

I have always esteemed HUSTENHAIN's work highly; his judgment was binding as far as I was concerned, and what he thought good I would not need to check. What he taught, he taught from my point of view because he was loyal and precisely this loyalty also gave him the right to criticize everything exactly. In the later years he was the mainstay of the cryptotechnical analysis of cryptographic devices. And, since I could no longer concern myself with any details whatsoever, HUSTENHAIN bore full responsibility. In this

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connection the idea never occurred to me that his judgment might not be correct. To complete the picture of this man I will add that he had an excellent general education, knew how to conduct himself faultlessly and, due to the assurance of his bearing and to the propriety of his conduct, he represented Chi admirably, no matter where it might be. Consequently HUEPFENHAIN was one of my most trusted associates and one of my closest colleagues.

## H. Oberstleutnant Willibald von KALCKSTEIN<sup>8</sup>

A chivalrous knight from the crown of his head to the sole of his feet in the strictest sense of the word. I have been with KALCKSTEIN as a young officer and have worked with him when wrinkles had long since made his face hard: never has KALCKSTEIN done anything which would have run counter to the concepts of honor and of absolute propriety. I have hardly known an officer who deduced as clearly as KALCKSTEIN the necessity of a collapse of Germany for ethical reasons. I have hardly known any officer who has suffered so much under the guilt due to his own class: all his idealism and irreproachable sense of what is right rebelled against those people who without any reason and decency appointed men as leaders who never should have been leaders and who conducted a war which consciously departed from Christian ethics. KALCKSTEIN may not be wise in the narrower sense of this word but he is one of those people who have the ability to learn from life itself and out of the rich experience gathered in the course of years to separate good from evil. Consequently KALCKSTEIN always walked the true path of genuine chivalry. His interest in politics and the events in the life of the nations and their relations made it seem desirable to charge KALCKSTEIN with the content evaluation of decrypted messages and with their dissemination. He did this with a zealous sense of duty and selected and sorted out the complex individual

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of OKW/Chi described von KALCKSTEIN as a "Junker of the old school. Every department gave von KALCKSTEIN translations and he handed them to a department of the General Staff. His job was quite unimportant but because he was an officer he had a certain reputation." (TICOM/I-201). WENDLAND, assistant to FENNER in OKW/Chi, stated that von KALCKSTEIN might be in Schleswig Holstein (TICOM/I-202).

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problems according to carefully considered points of view. What he did was right. But KALCHBERG was not equal to modern demands; his information, which was based on memory and a few notes, he could give only slowly; while my archives, after the personnel had been broken in could dispose of inquiries in barely three hours which KALCHBERG took 24 hours to answer. The information supplied was essentially the same but KALCHBERG's method did not permit of a more rapid utilization of his knowledge. That made no difference in KALCHBERG's judgment, he was always dependable, always objective. (For this reason the archive was taken out of my group and assigned to KALCHBERG. His prejudices against this "soulless caring" of information he would have given up in the course of time himself as soon as he had had opportunity to convince himself how well the new archive was functioning.) KALCHBERG belonged among my most intimate co-workers. Those on the same footing with him esteemed in him the honorable comrade; subordinates loved his justice and his uncompromising chivalry; superiors avoided him because of the inextinguishability of his opinions. It was to this virtue that KALCHBERG owed his not too successful career.

## I. MENZER<sup>9</sup>

MENZER came to GMI about 1935 and was employed in the section "Gen Cryptographic Systems." He had served twelve years in the Signal Corps of the National Defense, was Oberfunkmeister and was now allowed to seal hundreds of envelopes before they were sent out. After MENZER had done this for awhile he asked to be transferred to me. I tested him and found that it was a shame to use him to seal envelopes -- and took him into my section. MENZER entered a course in low-level cryptology, he tutored in mathematics, he made himself familiar with simple cryptographic aids, was given minor offerings by inventors to work on, and little by little, corresponding to his inclination and capacity, he was drawn into a job, where the idea of using some sort of a

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9. For details of MENZER's life, career, and activities subsequent to the defeat of Germany see DF 174 and DF 185.

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machine as an aid to cryptanalysis cropped up. At the same time MENZER, who had far more imagination than the average, was told to familiarize himself with small hand systems for German use. Practical analysis was not MENZER's field; even solving a substitution was a disagreeable chore for him. By constantly occupying himself with these things, by inexorable criticism -- which was exercised in every individual case, by carefully planned search for the truth, MENZER's horizon expanded as his knowledge of the subject deepened. Soon he was no longer satisfied with simple problems. He took the Enigma then in use and tested the security of German cryptograms. MENZER showed that the Enigma was being used falsely, as I had long been asserting. MENZER worked out his studies correctly, was orderly in his work, and never asserted more than he could prove. In short, he had learned to think methodically and to work methodically and to make no statements until he had proved them. From about 1938 on MENZER occupied himself more intensively with the development of cryptanalytic aids, but he always first asked himself the question what do I want of this device, what is it to do? The first attempts were quite primitive: with some wooden strips he rigged up a recurring periodicity. There was no money available so there was no chance of developing the idea on any grandiose scale. There was much talk, however, about the necessity of constructing a device to search for the record parallel passages. MENZER then occupied himself more intensively with this matter. Some funds were placed at my disposal, and the first mechanics also arrived, but it now appeared that the professional knowledge of an Oberfunkmeister was not technically adequate: MENZER lost his independence; he was placed under RUEYMERHAIN to whose section the graduate engineer ROTSCHEIDT was transferred. Out of the collaboration of these men came the devices which I have mentioned elsewhere. Along with this, however, there were again rather long periods of time when MENZER occupied himself exclusively to our hand systems. Thus, for instance, the so-called Heftschlüssel was due to his suggestion. It was betrayed immediately after it was introduced and did not prove as resistant to attack as had been calculated, because several "impossible" errors had proven possible. This discovery had as a result that the testing of our own

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systems had to be carried out more carefully than before. In doing this MEINER again revealed himself as an extremely capable collaborator. Even before the outbreak of the war I had noted with distrust that the German Abwehr was using cryptographic systems of its own which had not been checked by me. Requests made occasionally during the war by the Abwehr that I place some cryptographic systems at its disposal for special purposes strengthened my suspicion that the counterintelligence service was working with totally inadequate systems. Now MEINER was commissioned to go to the counterintelligence offices to deliver explanatory lectures and to make all preparations for removing immediately all poor systems -- even in spite of the resistance of unteachable superiors -- and introducing new ones which had been checked in my section. That was MEINER's last big job and he completed it to my complete satisfaction. MEINER's strong points are: small hand systems and small cryptographic aids; the criticism of systems and his judgment as to their security. His judgment is always characterized by factualness and by consideration of all conceivable weaknesses.

## J. Major MEITIG<sup>10</sup>

Curiously enough he was regarded by his superiors as a capable officer. I can neither check nor confirm this opinion because I never saw or became acquainted with his accomplishments. He was surely a very agreeable subordinate, whose first principle was to agree with any superior. In ridiculous contrast to his figure -- the Graces had not stood as godparents beside his cradle -- he exaggerated the formal bearing of a soldier. In my opinion he kept things back and was of inferior character. His disagreeably emphasized politeness might have misled an inexperienced person into overlooking these defects. Perhaps in the last analysis he was of a decent disposition, certainly he was not National Socialist in his thinking; however, he did not have character enough to live always according to what he thought right. An officer without any natural career, was never promoted out of turn; then during

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10. MEITIG wrote an extensive report for TICOM on the organization of OKW/Chi (TICOM/I-96). See also DF 185 Part II for information on MEITIG's career.



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the war because of heavy losses he got into a position such as he had never dared dream of as a young officer. Strongly inclined to the use of alcohol. Industrious.

## K. Oberregierungsrat Dr. Helmut MUELLER<sup>11</sup>

An intelligent cryptanalyst without any ideas of his own but with all the more capacity for working according to a given pattern. Too ambitious to be able to lead people properly; too easy on himself to afford an example which would be worth imitating; too restless to be able to wait and see whether a thing always turned out the same way. Decent in his thinking, MUELLER had not matured in character sufficiently to live according to his thinking. He never will attain this maturity, for one of his essential traits is always to be a boy and never to be a man. In spite of many demonstrable successes MUELLER was denied special recognition for his accomplishments because his puerile nature was the cause of repeated conflicts. Quite useful when under strict guidance, MUELLER must not be allowed to act as leader. With health impaired by occasional attacks of asthma, he may have had to spare himself more than he wished to. The personnel of a large unit does not consider this, however, but judges according to other criteria. MUELLER had an extremely lively imagination which unfortunately was kept in check; his working tempo very materially exceeded that of a normal cryptanalyst; moreover he was faithful. And any superior who knew how to make use of these good qualities and who knew the bad aspects could work very successfully with him.

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11. MUELLER's address was (see also COM/I-202) as Luebeck, Fackenburg Allee 21. See Appendix A for MUELLER's account of his life.

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## I. Charakteristika eines Mannes<sup>12</sup>

Experienced and thoroughly tested cryptanalyst with the marked ability to break into large code books and set up a reliable skeleton of initial interpretations. A decent character, loyal and honest. Right thinking and right acting in every way. Not stupid but with a one-sided development, although without much imagination. Steady in his performance, modest and unassuming. Not a man who will bring down stars from heaven but persistent in his work without saying a great deal. Unpleasantness in his private life never allowed him to be really happy. So he made upon an unprejudiced observer an unkind impression and seemed cool in his reserve. A circulatory trouble caused him to age prematurely. A sterling worker and a good comrade.

## II. Regierungsrat Diplomingenieur Wilhelm ROSENBLUM<sup>13</sup>

A poor soldier, a still useful official, and a very good engineer. In overcoming difficulties he was aided in the first place by his professional knowledge and in the second place by his humor which never left him in a lurch. He was such a master of modern long range communications technique that I could rely upon him and have perfect confidence in him. He was a safe construction man. His technical developments did not tend toward the utopian, for ROSENBLUM always remained a positive realist in everything. In human leadership he would have had to learn a bit more but he would certainly have freed himself of this deficiency in the course of time because he was gifted enough to learn from mistakes. However, his habit of criticizing did not stop with himself so that ROSENBLUM had all the makings of an able and

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12. Nikolai ROSEN was interrogated by THORN in 1947 and the report of interrogation issued as THORN/I-199. ROSEN did not impress the interrogators as a man of high-powered intellect and the interrogation was considered disappointing. Personal data were secured concerning his birth in Riga of German father and American mother; his joining OSA/Chi in 1921 as a clerk, his Catholic faith, non-Nazi beliefs, and the fact that in May 1945 he had been overrun by the British. ROSEN claimed, however, that he had not been overrun and was working for US authorities in Berlin as a gardener.

13. Mentioned in THORN/I-94 and I-96.

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agreeable official who has his heart in the right spot and does not call a piece of stupidity something wise just because it might have been committed by a superior. He saw things in an uncomplicated, unfalsified, primitive fashion. For that reason I regarded him highly as construction man. As a younger comrade he was close to my heart because of his humor and the freedom with which he expressed himself. Since he also knew how to work seriously he with his gifts rendered me and my unit many a good service.

N. Wachtmeister Dr. SCHAEDEL<sup>14</sup>

A fiery spirit mastered and dominated by reason in weighing everything most precisely. Critical because of his urge to get to the bottom of things; sharp in his judgments because he would only accept as valid that which had worth -- with a broad education, a friend of good rhetoric and not despising a well turned phrase which was equally apt for attack or defense, SCHAEDEL is a born propagandist. His decent disposition and his firm character guarantees at the same time that this propaganda would always be clean. Whenever he makes a mistake, he does so simply because he has not yet acquired the ripe experience of an older man.

SCHAEDEL can play on all registers: he can be the most faithful, shrinking from no cunning and subtlety to stand by a comrade; he can coldly terminate a connection, if he no longer needs it for practical purposes; he can with perfect amiability inspire his associates to do their duty and likewise with unaffected rudeness chase a good-for-nothing out of the temple. In all questions of organization, where personal and material difficulties are to be expected, SCHAEDEL is an excellent collaborator. With his penchant for detail, he will trace down even the least possibilities of all conceivable resistance and will think up the appropriate manner of parrying each of the anticipated attacks. SCHAEDEL is experienced in leadership and has a fine feeling which enables him to judge whether a person can do a thing or not. An irrepressible love of freedom and the ~~unwillingness to be~~ inferior to him mentally sometimes gets SCHAEDEL into conflict: his superiors

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14. See also DF 185, Part III.

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do not like his independence? So the thing for his superiors to do must always be to give his independence plenty of nourishment. That means that under a wise superior SCHAEDEL works admirably. Even though he may sometimes indulge his urge for propaganda by somewhat clamorous means, he never falls into the error of creating an organization that is not an organism, that is to say that does not have flesh and blood. SCHAEDEL knows how to get plenty out of life but he also knows how to give plenty in return. Today he gives lectures on Egyptian mummies, tomorrow he will be expatiating on the advantages of modern furniture construction; yesterday he was talking with you about the old Egyptian mysteries at Heliopolis, day after tomorrow he will be working out the plan for a Press Information Bureau. Thus to me SCHAEDEL was an extremely valuable associate who reacted to the slightest suggestion, knew how to judge things and people coldly and soberly, but also ardently stood up for ideas which he had convinced himself were right. A clever man with great intelligence, good manners and a liberal manner of life.

## O. Professor Dr. WEBER<sup>15</sup>

An important mathematician who knew how to apply mathematics as an auxiliary to cryptanalysis. He was excellent in his work. His industry was purposeful and his persistence was the expression of a purposeful will. A great spirit in an insignificant, almost misshapen body had split the being of this man: opposed to sober knowledge of higher mathematics stood political goals which lacked all sense and wisdom. WEBER was good natured and sociable without ever pushing his own claim, but as a National Socialist he was blind to the distorted character of its philosophy as put into practice. His conduct in the service never gave cause for complaint because there was no opportunity for political activity, but his professional colleagues and co-workers kept away from him much more than was usual in a military milieu.

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15. WFOCM/2-101 is the report of the interrogation of Dr. Werner Weber of OKW/Chi, written in October 1945. It forms a most valuable account of the last days of OKW/Chi, from April 1945 until the surrender of Germany. No details of WEBER's life are given.

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He was one of those idealists who are incapable of any misdeed themselves but for that reason are unwilling to admit that other people are all the more inclined to do evil.

## P. Regierungsrat Dr. Franz WEISSER<sup>16</sup>

Originally trained as a merchant, he gave up his calling in order to work with his head, studied philology, took his degree and after some time applied for a job with OKW. High spirited and energetic, aggressive and at the same time persistent when things were disagreeable. He knew how to differentiate between essential and non-essential. A man of decent character and firm convictions. A critical spirit and a righteous man. Ruthless whenever indifference and weakness became obstacles on the way to the goal. Consequently not popular with tamer people. Was one of my most able and dependable associates, with an excellent knowledge of languages and a good talent for cryptanalysis.

## Q. Ministerialrat Dr. WENDLAND<sup>17</sup>

More of a rugged nature man than a drawing-room official. His thinking and character were beyond reproach. Wise, cultured and industrious whenever there were means available for reaching an important goal. When these means

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16. WEISSER was interrogated by TICOM in Augsburg, October 1946 and the interrogation was issued as TICOM/I-201. At that time WEISSER was teacher of Latin, German, and French at the Oberschule in Augsburg. His Augsburg address was Johann Roesle Strasse 9 bei Hoegg. His wife was still in Berlin, address Berlin/Friedrichsfelde, Waldeseestrasse 40 (Ruselan district); his daughter was in Bruckmuhl with tuberculosis. WEISSER did not intend to return to cryptologic work, having become thoroughly discouraged and disgusted with government bureaucracy. WEISSER was described by FENNER in an oral interrogation as having "thin, curly brown hair brushed back, unhealthy, white, impure skin, no moustache, grey eyes, no spectacles". (TICOM/I-200).
17. WENDLAND was interrogated by TICOM in September 1946 in Berlin and the interrogation issued as TICOM/I-202. At that time WENDLAND was employed at the Centralbiologische Anstalt in Berlin, and acted as interpreter between employees and the Russians. His address was Berlin/Oehringen, Schillerstrasse 73. He was anxious that the Russians not learn of his activities, and had not at that time been interrogated by them. WENDLAND knew the addresses of many associates and had been visited by MENZER on one of the latter's visits to Berlin. The interrogators were impressed with his honest qualities and characterized him as the "dreamy, professor type."

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were wanting, WENDLAND never wasted the smallest unit of his otherwise highly esteemed energy. Brief and direct in judgment, always distinguishing the essential from the non-essential, an outspoken foe of all halfway measures and inexactitudes, at the same time a cynic blessed with plenty of humor. His amiability is genuine, likewise his irony. He hated injustice and, for the sake of justice, he could break every human tie. As cryptanalyst he showed great ability and constant performance, as superior he always set an example of rational fulfillment of duty himself, as comrade he was ready to help and was upright from a sense of loyalty. The energy he used up in his work WENDLAND regained in the forest: he had a good reputation as ornithologist and nature was his God and his beloved. A thoroughly mature noble personality. He was my closest associate.

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Dr. Hellmuth Muller  
Oberregierungsrat

Lubeck, April 1st, 1947  
Hoelsinger Allee 61 d

via: Commanding Intelligence Center  
American Military Government

to: Government of the United  
States of North-America

Extremely confidential.

Subject: Foreign Ciphers.

I allow me to ask you

- 1) whether the USA Government, War or Foreign Secretary of State, has an interest of being informed about French, Belgian or Swiss Government's ciphers during the last 25 years.
- 2) whether this authority will take me in duty of
  - A) deciphering in future French, Belgian, or Swiss Government's ciphers
  - B) charging me to develop such ciphers or others.

Argumentation of this application:

For the last 25 years, up to April 1945, I was the leader of the deciphering group France, Belgium, later on Switzerland within the range of the "Chiffrier-Abteilung" of the Oberkommando der Wehrmacht.

I had the task of

- 1) deciphering myself,
- 2) carefully educating suitable personalities to well-working decipherers,
- 3) conducting this group (24 persons) in every respects concerning deciphering.

Of course, I got large knowledge of foreign policy of France, Belgium (Belgian Congo), Switzerland, as well as of a numerous group of foreign politicians, first of all of diplomatic persons of all ranks.

I had chosen this work, 25 years ago, hoping that it could be a life-long one, - already during the first world war I had learned deciphering English naval ciphers in Mediterranean, - for I was very fond of this job.

During the last 25 years, I was employe from 1.2.1920; official from 1.1.1931; Oberregierungsrat from 1.7.1937 up to the war's end.

I never was member of the NSDAP, nor of one of its organizations or affiliations. As enclosure I send you a certified copy of the "Clearance Certificate" of the Lubeck Denazification Panel, as well as a copy of the British Public Safety about having no Nazi connections.

My personal and professional conditions were examined while I was interned in the I.C.I.C. (27.8.45 to 11.4.46).

Neutral reference about my character is:

Directeur honoraire Jean W i s e m e y e r  
Schwyz (Switzerland)

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I should like to enter USA Service and to live with my family in North-America.

Will you kindly send me your early reply?

I am  
Yours very faithfully

3 enclosures: 1 Clearance certificate  
1 Certificate of the British Public Safety  
1 Course of Life

\* \* \* \* \*

Dr. Hellmuth Muller  
Oberregistrationsrat

Lubeck, Meislinger Allee 61 d.

## Course of Life.

I was born on the 4th of December 1896 at Groblichterfelde near Berlin. I am the second son of Regierungsbaumeister and Patentanwalt Gustav Adolf Furchtagott Muller and his wife Clara, born Pfitzner.

From 1903 up to 1915, I was pupil of the Oberrealschule at Groblichterfelde. I passed the final examination (Abiturium), and devoted myself to the Service in the German Red Cross. I was sent to Bialystock and Mitau, where I worked in a Kriegslazarettabteilung. On the 15-th of February 1915, I became a soldier and stood in the western front, at last as a non-commissioned officer in an machinegun unit. After having passed a fortnight-course on the Straburg university in October 1917, I was sent to the Nachrichten-Chef of the German Headquarters (Kreuznach and Spa), later on to the Funker-Abteilung in Constantinople, where I was instructed in deciphering.

From 1919 to 1924, I studied on the Berlin university French, English, and Italian. I got the degree of a Dr. phil. in January 1925. On February 1-st, 1920, I entered, joining to the activity with the Nachrichten-Chef (1917/1918), the Chiffrierstelle of the then Reichswehrministerium, and, uninterruptedly up to the end of the 2. World War, I presided the important section France-Belgium, which was enlarged by Holland about 1930, and by Switzerland in the beginning of 1944.

From 1.2.20 up to 31.12.30, I was employee; on 1.1.31, I was appointed Registrationsrat, and on 1.1.37, I was promoted Oberregistrationsrat.

During this time, a great number of French, Belgian, and later Swiss government's ciphers were worked over and solved. In virtue of my experiences, won since 1917 and permanently increased, I introduced 25 gentlemen and ladies of my group, - among them there were 9 academicians, linguistic and mathematical scientists, - into the mathematical and linguistic peculiarities and demands of this highly interesting matter. The decipherers belonged to the so-called "High-Foreign-Language-Service of the Wehrmacht". It was an advantage for me that I always was efficient in both disciplines, mathematics as well as languages. (I got the note "Good" in German, French, English, and Mathematics of the secondary school).



# ~~TOP SECRET~~

My professional work consisted of:

- 1) deciphering myself,
- 2) educating decipherers,
- 3) conducting the group, e.g.  
to distribute work in the most useful manner,  
to engage the employees according to their capacity and their  
experience,  
to criticize the results;

in short: to administrate at best this section being numerically small, but very important, spacious and nearly singular in scientific working within the range of a Reichs authority.

Besides this, I was obliged to deal with difficult characters, to instruct and to engage them. This many-sided management of the working group for 25 years had the result that my favourite interest in foreign policy was well bred. I got a large knowledge of the French policy in the Far and Near East, in Moscow, Sweden, and South America; of the Belgian Congo and Central Africa at all; at last of the Swiss policy of representation in all parts of the world.

My group - like that of my comrades of other languages - was excluded from all relations to political offices of the NSDAP. I never wrote any political reports; I never delivered any political speeches; and I never published any political articles. For 25 years, exclusiveness was the characteristic of the small deciphering group scientifically working within the range of the Chiffrierstelle of the Reichswehrministerium, later on of the Chiffrierabteilung of the OKW.

My superiors took a refusing attitude towards the NSDAP, till into the years of the war. After the 20-th of July, 1944, my highest commanders, General Fellgiebel, inspecteur of the Nachrichtenwesen (for 4 years he was the leader of the Chiffrierstelle himself), and Generalmajor Thiele, commanding officer of the Antsgruppe Wehrmachtnachrichtenverbindungen, were hanged because of their active participation in the revolutionary outbreak against Hitler.

I was educated by christian parents, and I confess myself as a protestant. I never left Church, nor my wife, nor my son; I made my son confirm in 1942; my attitude was directed at all times against the NS-movement. As a high official, I automatically became a paying member of the Reichsbund deutscher Beamten. I am neither member of the NSDAP, nor of any of its organisations or affiliations. I do not possess any political connections.

At the war's end, I was in the Olympia-Lazarett at Doberitz near Berlin. On approaching of the Russian army, the hospital dissolved itself; I travelled with my family - who had removed from Berlin -Steglitz to Wustermark/Lehrter Bahn, after total outbombing there in August 1943 - in north-western direction, but I could not continue this trip to Schleswig to my former office, because we were stopped at Lubeck.

Within the months May to August 1945, I imparted English lessons at Lubeck in the Dragerwerk, in courses of the Lubeck Kultusverwaltung, as well as in private courses. I imparted German lessons to 5 Scottish and 5 British officers during the same time. Since May 1946, I am working in the ~~Dragerwerk~~ as translator; but mostly I am Dozent at the Lubeck Volkshochschule, where I preside 2 English and 2 French courses.

For the purpose of examining both my personal and my professional conditions, I was detained in the I.C.I.C. from the 27.8.45 to the 11.4.46. The internment was an "automatic" one.

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As enclosure I send a certified copy of the document of the Lubek Detoxification Panel, as well as an English certificate of the Public Safety, RM Mil Gov, from which is to be seen my political clearance.

Since the 14th of May, 1921, I am married to Hildegard Muller, born Hornemann. Our 20-year-old son is standing in his second semester of study.

(signed) Dr. Hellmuth Muller

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